

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-11, and 13-20 are currently pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 11 have been amended, by way of the present supplemental amendment. Support for the amendments can be found, at least, on pages 20-21, 24-28, and Figures 1-3. No new matter has been added.

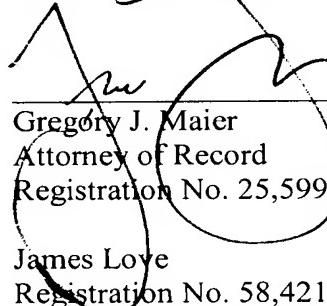
Further to Applicants' amendment filed on December 8, 2009, the present supplemental amendment clarifies independent Claims 1 and 11. For example, Claim 11 has been amended to more clearly recite that the splitting of each entering optical pulse into orthogonally polarized components takes place before the phase difference of an orthogonally polarized component is produced.

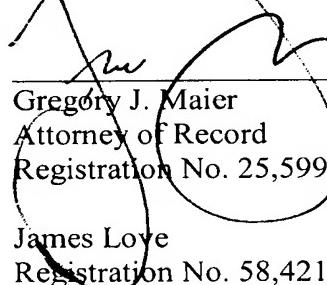
Further to the remarks of December 8, 2009 and to the present supplemental amendment, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 1 and 11, and claims depending therefrom, patentably define over Bethune, and the other cited references (i.e., Negamiu and Sedlmayr). Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of Claims 1 and 11, and claims depending respectively therefrom, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussions, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, L.L.P.


Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599


James Love
Registration No. 58,421

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 07/09)